

--19. (New) A fuel cell as claimed in claim 18, wherein the flat plate is made of synthetic resin, and wherein the conductive projections each are in the form of a conductive pillar body made of pressed carbon powder.--

REMARKS

Claims 9, 13, 14 and 17-19 are pending. By this Supplemental Amendment, claim 9 is amended, and claims 18 and 19 are added. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Tsang-Foster during the September 9, 2002 interview. The points discussed during the interview are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes a marked-up copy of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

The Office Action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 05-074469 in view of Kindler (U.S. Patent No. 6,228,518) and further in view of JP 61-253768 and Maget (U.S. Patent No. 4,648,955). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully assert that claim 9 is now patentable over the applied references for the reasons set forth in the August 20 filed Amendment and September 9 personal interview. Consequently, Applicants assert that the claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Appendix

Date: October 1, 2002

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim:

9. (Twice-Thrice Amended) A fuel cell comprising:

at least a cell function assembly including an electrolytic membrane;
a pair of electrode plates assembled in contact with opposite surfaces of the
electrolytic membrane;

a first separator placed in contact with one of the electrode plates and
perforated to form a reaction chamber to be supplied with fuel gas;
a second separator placed in contact with the other electrode plate and
perforated to form a reaction chamber to be supplied with oxidizing agent gas; and
a set of current-collecting plates assembled respectively in contact with the
first and second separators at opposite outermost sides of the cell,

wherein the electrode plates each are divided into a first plurality of spaced
plates, and wherein the current-collecting plates each are divided into a second plurality of
spaced plates.

Claims 18 and 19 are added.